

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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FOR AMB PAUL C. WARNKE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 16 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. CHRISTOPHER S. WREN OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN MAY 16 DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW, SAID SOVIET UNION IS "MAINTAINING ITS LOW PROFILE ON PROSPECTS OF PROGRESS TOWARD NEW AGREEMENT LIMITING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS." WREN SAID ONE TEST OF SOVIET ATTITUDE AT VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING WILL BE WHETHER GROMYKO "RESURRECTS ISSUE OF AMERICAN FORWARD-BASED SYSTEMS."

2. CRUISE MISSILE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN NATIONAL OBSERVER ARTICLE BY RICHARD EGAN AND GEORGE C. WILSON PIECE IN MAY 16 WASHINGTON POST. EGAN SAID CRUISE MISSILE "SMACKS OF SUPERWEAPON.... IT COULD ALSO WRECK SALT, DOOM ANY SIMILAR FUTURE EFFORTS AT CURBING AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN
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ARMORIES, AND REVIVE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE BETWEEN WORLD'S TWO FOREMOST SUPERPOWERS."

3. WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST SAID CRUISE MISSILE, "THOUGH NOT YET DEPLOYED, COULD PUSH UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION INTO SPENDING NEW BILLIONS ON CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENSE."
WILSON QUOTED SOVIET MILITARY OFFICIAL AS SAYING RESULT OF

THIS "ACTION-REACTION" WOULD BE BOTH SIDES "GOING UP ONE MORE RUNG OF ARMS LADDER WITH NO GAIN IN SECURITY."

4. CHARLES MOHR OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN MAY 14 DISPATCH FROM TEHRAN, SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION MAY BE RECONCILED TO PUTTING ASIDE FOR TIME BEING ITS SO-CALLED "COMPREHENSIVE" ARMS LIMITATION PROPOSAL AND ACCEPTING A MORE MODEST PLAN SIMILAR TO ONE PROPOSED BY SOVIET UNION. MOHR COMMENTS BASED ON REMARKS OF U.S. OFFICIAL ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY VANCE TO IRAN. HE SAID U.S. OFFICIAL'S REMARKS POSSIBILITY OF "COMBINING" TWO U.S. PROPOSALS WITH SOVIET PROPOSAL "SEEMED TO BE IN HARMONY WITH RECENT REMARKS OF PAUL C. WARNKE, U.S. ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATOR, WHO IS ALREADY DISCUSSING 'SECONDARY' ISSUES BLOCKING AN AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN GENEVA. MR. WARNKE SAID THAT A 'SYNTHESIS' OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS MIGHT EMERGE." WILLIAM BRANIGAN OF WASHINGTON POST, IN DISPATCH FROM TEHRAN, REPORTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE INDICATED THAT U.S. HAS NO NEW PROPOSALS TO BREAK CURRENT DEADLOCK, BUT HE HOPED TWO SIDES COULD ACHIEVE "SYNTHESIS" OF PROPOSALS ALREADY ON TABLE.

5. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST MAY 15, SAID ARMS LIMITATION TALKS "WERE SET BACK LAST MONTH BY TWO ALTERNATE PROPOSALS THAT MR. VANCE PRESENTED IN MOSCOW AMIDST BLARE OF PUBLICITY.... IN ACTING TO GET TALKS MOVING AGAIN, PUBLICITY PROVED AN EMBARRASSMENT IN WASHINGTON. DISCLOSURE OF DETAILED ORIGINAL PROPOSALS GAVE HAWKISH OPPONENTS OF ARMS CONTROL IN PENTAGON AND CONGRESS BENCHMARKS AGAINST WHICH TO MEASURE

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ANY CHANGES. HAWKS HAVE BEEN DENOUNCING ALL FRESH IDEAS AS MUNICH-STYLE SELLOUTS AND ASCRIBING CHANGES TO 'EVIL' INFLUENCE OF THEIR FAVORITE WHIPPING BOY, DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATOR PAUL WARNKE. IN THESE CONDITIONS, ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR GENEVA WITH GREAT SECRECY.... EVEN IF CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IS MADE AT GENEVA, WORD MAY NOT GET OUT IMMEDIATELY. NEITHER WASHINGTON NOR MOSCOW CAN AFFORD TO BE SEEN TURNING AROUND SO QUICKLY ON SUCH SENSITIVE ISSUES. BUT OUTLOOK IS UNDOUBTEDLY FAIR. AS HE SHOWED IN LONDON, CARTER HAS LEARNED LESSON THAT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS CANNOT BE PRODUCT MADE ONLY IN AMERICA."

6. WASHINGTON STAR WRITER HENRY S. BRADSHER, IN MAY 15 ARTICLE, SAID TWO OF SOVIET-AMERICAN ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED AFTER MOSCOW TALKS HAVE HELD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS "BUT UNITED STATES IS UNABLE TO DECIDE ON POLICIES FOR SOME OF OTHER SIX." BRADSHER SAID TWO WORKING GROUPS EXPECTED TO ISSUE STATEMENTS IN NEXT DAY OR TWO

SAYING THAT THEY HAD ADJOURNED AFTER STARTING WORK ON ORGANIZATIONAL AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. NEXT MEETINGS ARE NOT IMMINENT. "THIS SUGGESTS EITHER THAT SOME POLICY PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SORTED OUT IN WASHINGTON ON THESE MATTERS OR THAT SOVIET ATTITUDE HAS BEEN FOUND COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE -- OR BOTH," BRADSHAW SAID. HE SAID SUCH TOPICS AS ANTISATELLITE SYSTEMS AND MISSILE-LAUNCH WARNINGS ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO SALT, AND ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE "PLANS PERSONALLY TO HEAD U.S. PANELS FOR THOSE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY ARE HELD."

7. BERNARD WEINRAUB, WRITING IN MAY 15 NEW YORK TIMES, SAID NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND PENTAGON UNDERTAKING REVIEW OF U.S. STRATEGIC RETALIATORY CONCEPT. WEINRAUB QUOTED DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN AS SAYING CONCEPT WOULD LEAD TO "UNLIMITED EXPENDITURES" ON EACH SIDE, THEREBY ACCELERATING ARMS RACE.
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8. LOS ANGELES TIMES PUBLISHED ARTICLE BY THORNTON F. BRADSHAW, PRESIDENT OF ATLANTIC RICHFIELD, CALLING ON ADMINISTRATION TO CONVINCE RUSSIANS "THAT THEY SHOULD JOIN IN CURBING WORLDWIDE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS COMPETITION -- BEFORE THAT COMPETITION GAINS SO MUCH MOMENTUM THAT IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL." BRADSHAW NOTED THAT NON-NUCLEAR FORCES ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF TOTAL U.S. AND SOVIET DEFENSE BUDGETS. HE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION PANEL ON ARMS CONTROL. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Comment:
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